

Report

Manassas National Battlefield Park

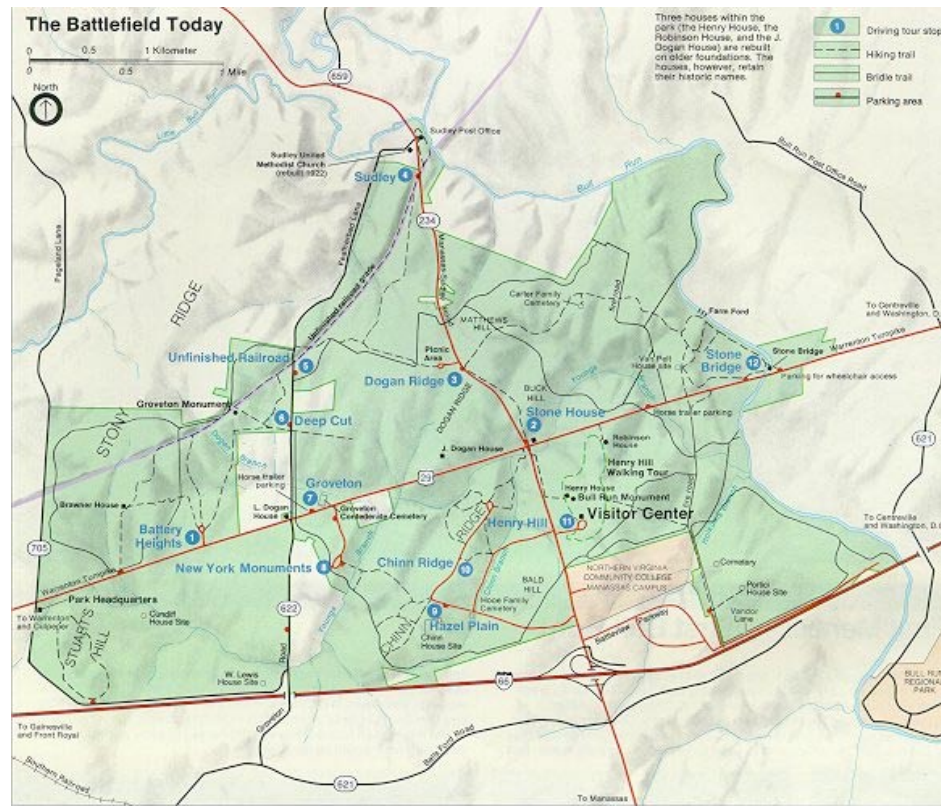
■ 1.0 Site Description

The 5,000-acre Manassas National Battlefield is the site of two pivotal Civil War Battles (see Figure 1). Facilities include a modern Visitor Center and interpretive trails. The Battlefield Park receives over one million visitors each year, making it one of the most visited Civil War-related parks managed by the NPS. The Park is located 25 miles west of Washington D.C., and is bordered on the south by I-66, a major east-west interstate facility serving northern Virginia (see Figure 2). Two other major arterial facilities, U.S. 29 and Virginia Route 234, bisect the Park as well. Visitation levels are highest during the summer months, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In the 1990s Park staff increased their efforts to maintain the integrity of the Park's boundaries against development pressures.

Figure 1. Stonewall Jackson Monument at Manassas



In 1998, the Virginia Department of Transportation (DOT) completed a major investment study (MIS) for I-66. The I-66 MIS examined potential alternative routes for U.S. 29 and Virginia Route 234, two roads which carry significant through traffic in the Park. One northern alignment was identified. In the interim the turning lanes will be added at the intersection of these two roads, to address safety and congestion issues. The Park has completed a draft of its General Management Plan (GMP) update. The plan will be released after additional study of new alignments for U.S. 29 and Virginia Route 234 is completed in one to two years.

Figure 2. Manassas National Battlefield

Long-term goals identified in the plan include developing a scaled down internal road system by narrowing pavement width. Bike lanes would be retrofitted on existing roads.

■ 2.0 Existing ATS

There is currently no public transportation to the Park. The Manassas Museum, a privately operated historical museum, has leased a trolley for special events, but this service was discontinued due to the high cost (\$1,000/day). Historical Manassas has discussed leasing a bus from the regional transit provider, the Potomac and Rapahannock Transportation Commission that would serve the old town section of Manassas on weekends. Funding needs are estimated at \$2,800 per day for two buses, which would operate from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekends. The patronage goal of this service is 640 passengers per day. Potential sources of funding for this service include FTA grants, local business association contributions and fare revenues.

■ 3.0 ATS Needs

The Manassas service discussed above could be extended to include the Battlefield Park, which is roughly five miles from the center of the old town center. This service would be part of a larger effort to bring a convenient means of touring Manassas and environs to tourists.

■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

There are no plans for Alternative Transportation Systems (ATS) to the Park. However, park management is interested in establishing a shuttle/trolley linkage with the nearby Manassas museum, which until last year operated a shuttle to/from the Manassas train station. The Park and the City of Manassas could derive mutual benefit from the former's participation in the shuttle service described above.

■ 5.0 Persons Interviewed

Bob Sutton, Superintendant